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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6462

BILL NUMBER: SB 233

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 27, 2012

BILL AMENDED: Feb 27, 2012

SUBJECT: Various Election Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Alting

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Richardson

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) *Municipal Election Ballots*- The bill provides that if there is a contested election for any office of a municipality, all nominees for each office must be shown on the ballot. The bill authorizes a county election board (CEB) to provide by resolution adopted by a unanimous vote of the members of the CEB, that an election for a municipal office not be held if there is no contest for the office. The bill provides that such a resolution expires January 1 of the year immediately following its adoption. The bill authorizes a CEB to provide by resolution adopted by a unanimous vote of the members of the CEB, that a municipal election may be limited to legislative body districts of the municipality where there are contests for election of members of the municipal legislative body if there are no contested offices to be elected by all the voters of the municipality.

Candidate Filings- The bill provides that a candidate filing required to be made with the Election Division (ED) is void if the filing is made with a county election official.

Republican Precinct Committeemen- The bill adds a cross-reference concerning the election of Republican Party precinct committeemen.

All Required Documents for Candidate Nomination By Petition- The bill provides that a candidate's nomination by petition is not effective unless the candidate files all required documents.

Petition of Nomination for Special Election Candidates- The bill provides that a petition of nomination for a candidate in a special election called by the Governor must be filed not later than 74, rather than 50, days before the election.

Earlier Deadline for Certificate of Nomination for Independent or Minor Party Petition Candidates- The bill specifies noon July 3 before election day, rather than noon on the second Tuesday in September before a general election, as the deadline for filing a certificate of nomination to replace an independent or minor party candidate nominated by petition.

Effective Date: (Amended) Upon passage; July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Earlier Deadline for Certificate of Nomination for Independent or Minor Party Petition Candidates-* The Election Division would have about two more months to process substitutions for candidates of independent or minor parties seeking federal, state, legislative, and certain local offices. The Election Division's current level of resources would be sufficient to accommodate these proposed changes.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) *Municipal Election Ballots-* County election boards would be able, by unanimous vote, to hold municipal elections only in the district covered by a contested legislative body office. Such a measure could reduce the expenditures that a municipal wide election would require. A CEB resolution could be adopted which would keep uncontested offices off the ballot. This provision would also reduce ballot expenditures.

(Revised) *Republican Precinct Committeemen-* This provision would have a negligible increase on local primary balloting expenditures. If more precinct committeemen were elected in the primary instead of a general election, the cost to move the candidates to the primary ballot would likely be minimal. As a result, with fewer precinct committeemen elected at the general election, ballot costs for general elections would be reduced slightly.

(Revised) *Petition of Nomination for Special Election Candidates-* This provision would allow an additional 24 days for circuit court clerks or other appropriate public officials to process petitions of nomination in special elections called by the Governor.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Election Division.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties, municipalities, county election boards, circuit court clerks.

Information Sources:

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